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ENG 3010G-002: Literary Masterworks "Paradise Revised"

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English 3010G-002: Literary Masterworks
 "Paradise Revised"
 Autumn Semester 2002

Dr. Dagni Bredesen

Office: Coleman Hall Room 3321
 Office Hours: M 1.30-2.30, W 5.00-5.45pm o.b.a.
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Course Description:

Arguably, the central text of this course, John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, is also—along with the King James Version of the Bible and the works of Shakespeare—a centerpiece of English literature. As you will discover in this class and in future readings, the sweep and grandeur of Milton's epic has made it one of the most commonly cited, invoked, imitated and revised texts in the English language. This course has three aims: first, to gain an understanding and appreciation of this important "literary masterwork" beginning with its biblical antecedents; second, to examine three other "masterworks" in their own right that directly and indirectly grapple with the language and concepts comprised by *Paradise Lost*; and, finally, to extend skills in critical reading, writing and speaking about literature in general.

Course Requirements: To fulfill the above goals requires effort. Your part is to keep up with the class reading and to carefully prepare to join in class discussions. Assignments are designed to foster active and informed participation in class discussion and small groups. Furthermore, students will be asked to participate as "interlocutors," that is, students will provide a question or questions, or a specific topic that will generate class discussion on the required readings for that day that will last twenty minutes to a half an hour (10%).

The first half of this class focuses on *Paradise Lost*. The assignments for this half will include:

- four single-page, single-spaced, typed (12pt) response papers on *Paradise Lost* based on study questions provided (15%).
- A short three to four-page essay analyzing an aspect of Milton's *Paradise Lost* Topics to be announced. (15%)
- A mid-term on *Paradise Lost* (15%)
- Memorizing and reciting an excerpt from *Paradise Lost* of 15 lines or more. (5%).

In the second half of the class, assignments will be:

- A second longer essay that examine ways that either Mary Shelley in *Frankenstein* or Thomas Hardy in *Tess of the D'urbervilles* "revise" *Paradise Lost*. Topics to be announced (20%).
- A final examination that will cover all texts with emphasis on those read AFTER *Paradise Lost* (20%)

Required Texts:

- John Milton's *Paradise Lost*
- Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
- Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*
- Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place*
- Course Packet available at Copy Express (in MLK student union building)

Class Reading Schedule:

Week One:

M 8/26	Introduction to course content and objectives
W 8/28	Genesis 1-3
F 8/30	<i>PL</i> Book I

Week Two:

M 9/2	LABOR DAY/ NO CLASSES
W 9/4	Guest Lecturer: Dr. Newton Key, History
F 9/6	<i>PL</i> Book I and II

Week Three:

M 9/9	<i>PL</i> Book II
W 9/11	<i>PL</i> Book III
F 9/13	<i>PL</i> Book IV

Week Four:

M 9/16	<i>PL</i> Books V
W 9/18	<i>PL</i> Books VI-VII
F 9/20	<i>PL</i> Book VIII

Week Five:

M 9/23	<i>PL</i> Books IX
W 9/25	<i>PL</i> Book IX -X
F 9/27	<i>PL</i> Book X-XI

Week Six:

M 9/30	<i>PL</i> Book XI-XII
W 10/2	Conclusion
F 10/4	Midterm 50 minutes. Be on time, bring exam pamphlet

Week Seven:

- M 10/7 *Paradise Lost* Paper Due in class/ Writing Workshop
W 10/9 Introduction to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
Discussion of Walton's Letters
F 10/11 *Frankenstein* Volume I: Interlocutors

Week Eight:

- M 10/14 *Frankenstein* Volume I: Interlocutors
W 10/16 *Frankenstein* Volume II: Interlocutors
F 10/18 Fall Break

Week Nine:

- M 10/21 *Frankenstein* Volume III: Interlocutors
W 10/23 *Frankenstein* Wrap-Up
F 10/25 "A Postmodern Prometheus"

Week Ten:

- M 10/28 Introduction to Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*
W 10/30 *Tess* Phase the First : Interlocutors
F 11/1 *Tess* Phase the First and Second

Week Eleven

- M 11/4 *Tess* Phase the Second: Interlocutors
W 11/6 *Tess* Phase the Third: Interlocutors
F 11/8 Reading Day/No Class

Week Twelve:

- M 11/11 Reading Day/No Class
W 11/13 *Tess* Phase the Fourth: Interlocutors
F 11/15 *Tess* Phase the Fifth: Interlocutors

Week Thirteen:

- M 11/18 *Tess* Phase the Sixth: Interlocutors
W 11/20 *Tess* Phase the Seventh: Interlocutors
F 11/22 Second Paper Workshop

Week Fourteen: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week Fifteen:

- M 12/2 Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place* First Section: Interlocutors
W 12/4 *A Small Place* Second Section: Interlocutors
***Second Paper Due if you would like the opportunity to revise**
F 12/6 *A Small Place* Third Section: Interlocutors

Week Sixteen:

- M 12/9 *A Small Place* Conclusion
W 12/11 Course Wrap-Up and Class Evals
F 12/13 **Second Paper must be turned in**

Final Exam: Monday, December 16th 12.30-2.30 pm